

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 13, first full paragraph:

The mitral shield may be constructed of biological material (e.g., human or bovine pericardium) or non-biological material (e.g., Dacron, PTFE, a biocompatible plastic, a biocompatible metal such as titanium, nitinol wire, etc). It may also consist of autologous cells grown on a matrix or frame. The sheet may be attached to the annulus using sutures, staples, wire, medical grade adhesives or other means of fixation. Thus, for example, in Fig. 4 3 staples 15 are shown attaching shield 5 to the annulus of the valve.